

**CEMETERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
1400 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE, MADISON  
NOVEMBER 13, 2001**

**PRESENT:** Tim Tysver, Craig Gramke, Glen Porter, III, Jon Ruatti, and Jim Ullom

**EXCUSED:** David Stucki, Marie Drescher, Reverend LeRoy Mixon, David Weiss, Kelly Coleman

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clete Hansen, Jacquelynn Rothstein; Candace Bloedow and Melissa Lach for a portion of the meeting.

**GUESTS:** None.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:44 a.m. by Clete Hansen, Division Administrator.

**AGENDA**

The agenda were informally approved, except that the Report on Evergreen Cemetery was moved toward the top of the agenda.

**MINUTES (8/1/01)**

**MOTION:** Glenn Porter moved, seconded by Jon Ruatti, to approve the minutes as written. Motion unanimously carried.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

**Secretary Ocar Herrera**

Secretary Herrera was unable to attend the meeting.

**Division Administrator's Report**

• **Committee Membership Roster**

Clete Hansen welcomed Jim Ullom to membership on the Committee and invited Committee members to introduce themselves.

Committee members remembered Dewey Mathewson who recently died.

• **Meeting Dates**

The next meeting was scheduled for February 5, 2002.

**DISCUSSION ISSUES**

**Report on Evergreen Cemetery**

Candace Bloedow and Melissa Lach gave a report on the status of Evergreen Cemetery. Ms. Bloedow offered the following information:

1. The receivership ended on November 9, 2001.
2. The City of Glendale and the City of Milwaukee have continued to show no interest in caring for the cemetery.
3. Mr. Lewis owns the cemetery.
4. Efforts are still being made to sell the cemetery.
5. Greentree Meadows is the only asset (22 acres).

### **Status of Proposed Revision of Cemetery Laws**

The Committee shared information about the status of Representative Johnny Morris-Tatum's bill and concluded that the bill will probably not go forward during the current session.

- **Biennial Budget Bill**

The Committee reviewed the provisions in the Biennial Budget Bill pertaining to cemeteries and preneed sellers. The Committee also noted that all of the provisions relating to the substantive changes in how cemeteries are regulated were vetoed by Governor Scott McCallum, as recommended by the Department and the Wisconsin Badger State Cemetery Association.

### **Proposed Regulation of Crematories**

The Committee reviewed LRB-2804/P1, relating to the regulation of crematories.

Glenn Porter identified issues that are of concern to the Wisconsin Badger State Cemetery Association:

1. He recommended that this regulation not be placed in Chapter 445, Wis. Stats., which is the chapter that contains the Funeral Director License Law.
2. He pointed out that the bill calls for licensing three kinds of persons or entities, funeral directors, cemeteries and others. He suggested that there ought to be one regulator-the Department.
3. He pointed out that the disciplinary structure, with two regulators, may be unworkable.

Glenn Porter also stated that an experienced cemetery official expressed some concern about one or other provision concerning the need to have serviceable equipment. Apparently, that cemetery official's equipment is older equipment.

**Motion:** Jon Ruatti moved, seconded by Tim Tysver, that the Committee recommends that there should be one regulator (the Department) and that the regulation should be in Chapter 440, Stats. Motion carried unanimously. (Jim Ullom was not present,

because he had to leave at 11:11 a.m.)

### **Burials During Each Season**

Committee members discussed the creation of ss. 157.114 (1) and (2), Stats., in 2001 Wisconsin Act 16. Committee members questioned the meaning of “insofar as practicable.” There was also discussion about the Department’s role in enforcing this provision.

Committee members also discussed documents that were included in the meeting packet relating to a banquet and discussion forum sponsored by funeral establishments in Crandon and Wabeno. Some committee members were concerned that certain aspects of this forum could be construed as price fixing. Some other potential conflicts of interest were noted.

### **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION**

#### **State of Wisconsin v. King Drive Memorial, Inc. and Susan Watkins**

Noted

#### **Minutes of the National Cemetery Regulators Meeting of November 12-22, 2001**

Noted

#### **Legislative Contact Regarding Non-Pecuniary Cemeteries**

Noted

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business to report.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be February 5, 2002, at 9:30 a.m. in Madison.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Tim Tysver moved, seconded by Craig Gramke, to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was informally adjourned at 12:12 p.m.